

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend page 10, line 30, to page 11, line 6, to recite:

Figure 3: Sequence of the *hngn3* gene (SEQ ID NO: 9). The *hngn3* coding region is indicated by capital letters. The deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 39) is presented above the nucleotide sequence. Both nucleotide and amino acid numbers are indicated on the left. The 138 bp PCR product amplified from the basic and helix II domain is underlined. The black arrow marks the 5' end of the 3'-anchored PCR product whereas the gray arrow indicates the 3' end of the 5'-anchored PCR product. The intron sequence interrupting the 5' untranslated region is boxed in gray.